

Caption:

LTC Schiele 'Bill' Brewer (left) and LTC Al Larmann Jr. stand by the repeater aircraft they flew while practicing air-to-ground image transmission for the NY Wing.

News Release

Contact: SM Robert Stronach, NY Wing public affairs officer, stronach@borg.com

NY Wing Practices Aerial Recon and Image Transmission

DECEMBER, 2002 -- Two New York Wing air crews practiced aerial reconnaissance and air-to-ground image transmission over Oneida County Airport near Utica on Nov. 15, the day before a scheduled presentation on CAP's capabilities to an Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer Conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

One aircraft was assigned to photo reconnaissance, with Maj. Ed Kopp as pilot, Capt. Mike Lazar as co-pilot and 1st Lt. Bill Jones as observer-photographer. The other plane, with pilot Lt. Col. Schiele 'Bill' Brewer and co-pilot Lt. Col. Al Larmann Jr., was outfitted with a relay repeater to extend the reach of the image transmission by a couple hundred miles. Manning the ground station were Lt. Col. Steve Perta, wing vice commander/north, and Maj. Gerald Marketos, commander of the Mohawk-Griffiss Senior Squadron.

Once the aircraft were airborne, Lt. Colonel Perta keyed the mic on the ground receiver, which was resting snugly in a thick, black briefcase.

"Video air, this is video ground," Lt. Colonel Perta said.

Replied Captain Lazar: "This is video air."

"You are loud and clear," Lt. Colonel Perta told the crew. "Video ground ready to receive."

Over the next half hour several images were captured on a high resolution camcorder and then transmitted, some direct to the ground station and others via the airborne repeater. Each image slowly appeared on a TV monitor, taking about 90 to 120 seconds to complete transmission. The photos were stamped with GPS location, time and date, and could be stored on videotape or computer.

Prior to each transmission, the air crew announced the altitude and compass heading of the plane.

The plan was to do a live demonstration for the West Point conference involving both New York Wing and Connecticut Wing air and ground crews.

Even though snowy weather grounded the flights on Nov. 16, Lt. Colonel Perta went ahead with the conference briefing, giving a PowerPoint presentation on CAP's reconnaissance image transmission capability. Northeast Region Commander Col. Richard Greenhut spoke to conference attendees about CAP's homeland security role.

###